

## § 115.2

Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets, November 14, 1975 (TIAS), and the Customs Convention on Containers, 1972 (TIAS), by applying the procedures and technical conditions set forth in the annexes to these conventions.

### § 115.2 Application.

(a) Certification of containers and road vehicles for international transport under Customs seal is voluntary. This chapter does not require certification of containers and road vehicles.

(b) The Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), January 15, 1959 (20 UST 184, TIAS 6633), requires that the approval of road vehicles be made by competent authorities of the country in which the owner or carrier is a resident or is established, and that containers should be either similarly approved, or approved by the competent authority of the country where it is first used for transport under Customs seal. The Customs Convention on Containers, May 18, 1956 (20 UST 301, TIAS 6634), requires that the approval of containers be made by competent authorities of the country in which the owner is a resident or is established or by those of the country where the container is used for the first time for transport under Customs seal. The TIR Convention, 1975, generally provides that a road vehicle, for which approval at a stage after manufacture is desired, shall be approved by the competent authority where the vehicle owner or operator is established or located, or where the vehicle is registered. Such approval under the TIR Convention, 1975, or, for containers, the Customs Convention on Containers, 1972, may be accomplished by the competent authority of the country in which the owner or operator is able to produce the conveyance. The 1975 TIR Convention and the Customs Convention on Containers, 1972, also provide that the Certifying Authority of the country of manufacture, if that country is a contracting party to the Convention, may approve a series of road vehicles or containers presented for design type approval. The procedures for applying for certification are contained in §§ 115.28, 115.38, 115.49, and 115.63 of this part.

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### § 115.3 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part:

(a) *Certifying Authority*. “Certifying Authority” means a nonprofit firm or association, incorporated or established in the U.S., which the Commissioner finds competent to carry out the functions of this part and which he designates to certify containers and road vehicles for international transport under Customs seal.

(b) *Commissioner*. “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Customs.

(c) *Container*. “Container” means an article of transport equipment (lift van, portable tank, or other similar structure).

(1) Fully or partially enclosed to constitute a compartment intended for containing goods;

(2) Of a permanent character and strong enough to be suitable for repeated use;

(3) Specifically designed to facilitate the carriage of goods by one or more modes of transport, without intermediate reloading;

(4) Designed for ready handling, particularly its transfer from one mode of transport to another;

(5) Designed to be easily filled and emptied; and

(6) Having an internal volume of 1 cubic meter (35.3 cubic feet) or more.

(d) *Manufacturer*. “Manufacturer” means an organization or person constructing containers or road vehicles for certification in accordance with this chapter.

(e) *Prototype*. “Prototype” means a sample unit of a series of identical containers or road vehicles all built, so far as practical, under the same conditions.

(f) *Road vehicle*. “Road Vehicle”, as defined in Chapter 1, Article 1 of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), November 14, 1975 (TIAS), means not only any power-driven road vehicle but also any trailer or semi-trailer designed to be coupled to it.

(g) *Customs and TIR/Container Plan*. “Customs and TIR/Container Plan” means the designer’s drawing of a vehicle (for TIR purposes) or container (for